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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/625,922	07/24/2003	Hyun-Ju Lee	0001371/3062USU	9485

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EXAMINER

HOPKINS, ROBERT A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/625,922	Applicant(s) LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner Robert A. Hopkins	Art Unit 1724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,9 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8 and 10-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Note: The following action supercedes the notice of allowance mailed 10-31-05 and hence prosecution of the current application is being reopened as per the letter mailed 4-4-06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1,3-5,15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Fawcett(2004/0205926).

Fawcett teaches a dust collecting container(30) for a vacuum cleaner , removably mounted in a suction chamber of a vacuum cleaner body to filter a dust from a dust laden air being drawn into the suction chamber through an air suction hole(22) that is connected with the outside, the dust collecting container comprising a dust collecting casing comprising a connecting hole(56) connected with the air suction hole and a discharge portion for discharging the drawn air and a filter assembly(68) comprising at least three filters(76,68; paragraph 0036) and removably mounted at the discharge portion(see figures 3 and 4) and wherein the filter assembly comprises a first, a second, and a third filter which are porous in nature and provided in consecutive order, the pores

Art Unit: 1724

of the second filter(spun bound polyester) being smaller than the first filter(screen prefilter 76), the pores of the third filter(melt blown polypropylene) being smaller than the second filter, and the dust laden air drawn in through the connecting hole passes through the first, second, and third filters in turn, and wherein the third filter comprises: an outer frame(62) disposed in close contact with a boundary(48 in figure 5) of a discharge portion of the dust collecting casing; and a non-woven fabric provided at the outer frame, defining a fluid passage through which the air is discharged from inside of the dust collecting casing to the outside and at the same time filtering minute particles from the air passed through the second filter. Fawcett further teaches wherein the first filter is a net member(screen element; paragraph 0039). Fawcett further teaches wherein the second filter is a sponge(paragraph 0036, noting that the filter can be formed of any number of materials). Fawcett further teaches wherein the third filter is a non-woven fabric(melt-blown polyester). Fawcett further teaches wherein the dust collecting container is made of a transparent material.

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fawcett(2004/0205926) taken together with Ohno(3621640).

Fawcett teaches all of the limitations of claim 9 but is silent as to wherein the dust collecting casing is provided with an extended portion formed on the connecting hole, the extended portion provided with a sealing means for sealing in between the air suction hole and the connecting hole. Ohno teaches a dust collecting casing is provided with an extended portion formed on the connecting hole, the extended portion provided with a sealing means(45) for sealing in between the air suction hole and the connecting hole. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an extended portion formed on the connecting hole of Fawcett, the extended portion provided with a sealing means for sealing in between the air suction hole and the connecting hole so that dust collected in the dust collecting vessel of Fawcett is not spilled out while the cleaner is transported.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7,8,10-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 recites "wherein the outer frame is provided with a hook member protruding outward for hooking with a hooking protrusion formed on an upper portion of the dust collecting casing". Fawcett fails to teach an outer frame(62) with a hook member protruding outward for hooking with a hooking protrusion formed on an upper portion of the dust collecting casing. It would not have been obvious to someone of

Art Unit: 1724

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an outer frame with a hook member protruding outward for hooking with a hooking protrusion formed on an upper portion of the dust collecting casing because Fawcett does not suggest such a modification.

Claim 8 recites "wherein the outer frame is provided with a connecting rib protruding therefrom for being inserted in a slit which is formed in the lower portion of the dust collecting casing". Fawcett fails to teach an outer frame which is provided with a connecting rib protruding therefrom for being inserted in a slit which is formed in the lower portion of the dust collecting casing. It would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an outer frame which is provided with a connecting rib protruding therefrom for being inserted in a slit which is formed in the lower portion of the dust collecting casing because Fawcett does not suggest such a modification.

Claim 10 recites "wherein the sealing means comprises: a first sealing member, extended at one end toward the outer side of the extended portion to a close contact with a boundary of the air suction hole; and a pressing means for selectively pressing the first sealing member towards the air suction hole". Ohno et al teaches a check valve seal, but fails to teach a first sealing member, extended at one end toward the outer side of the extended portion to a close contact with a boundary of the air suction hole; and a pressing means for selectively pressing the first sealing member towards the air suction hole. It would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a first sealing member, extended at one end

Art Unit: 1724

toward the outer side of the extended portion to a close contact with a boundary of the air suction hole; and a pressing means for selectively pressing the first sealing member towards the air suction hole because Ohno et al does not suggest such a modification. Claims 11 and 12 depend on claim 10 and hence would also be allowable upon incorporation of claims 10 and 9 into claim 1.

Claim 13 recites "wherein the outer frame is provided with a second sealing member provided at an inner boundary thereof, and in tight contact with an inner boundary of the dust collecting casing which defines a dust collecting chamber, ...". Fawcett fails to teach an outer frame(62) which is provided with a second sealing member provided at an inner boundary thereof, and in tight contact with an inner boundary of the dust collecting casing which defines a dust collecting chamber. It would not have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide an outer frame which is provided with a second sealing member provided at an inner boundary thereof, and in tight contact with an inner boundary of the dust collecting casing which defines a dust collecting chamber because Fawcett does not suggest such a modification.

Claim 14 recites "wherein the dust collecting casing is provided with a fixing rail at an outer portion thereof in correspondence with a fixing rib provided to a suction chamber of the cleaner body, and the dust collecting casing is mounted in the suction chamber as the fixing rib is inserted in the fixing rail". Fawcett teaches dust collecting casings having an end portion which presses into the air suction hole and places the casing within the suction chamber. It would not have been obvious to someone of

Art Unit: 1724

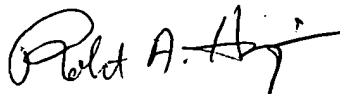
ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a dust collecting casing which is provided with a fixing rail at an outer portion thereof in correspondence with a fixing rib provided to a suction chamber of the cleaner body, and the dust collecting casing is mounted in the suction chamber as the fixing rib is inserted in the fixing rail because neither Ohno et al nor Fawcett teach such a modification.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A. Hopkins whose telephone number is 571-272-1159. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7am-4pm, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Rah
April 6, 2006


ROBERT A. HOPKINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU. 1724